

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 46/05/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 69/92

Possible Extrajudicial Executions
Legal Concern/Fear of "Disappearance"

25 February 1992

PERU:

Possible Extrajudicial Executions:

Magdalena RAMÍREZ MEDINA

Arnulfo ACEVEDO PAUCAR

Nemecio RAMÍREZ MEDINA

Manuel PALACIOS GOMERO

Vicente MEJÍA CRUZ

Legal Concern/Fear of "Disappearance":

Avelino VEGA, President of the Challhuayaco Civil Patrol

Mansueto ASENCIO SOLÍS

Amnesty International is concerned about the killing by the police of five peasants and the subsequent detention of two community members, in the district of Chavín, Huari province, Ancash department, in circumstances suggesting they may have been extrajudicially executed.

According to an eyewitness testimony and a written complaint, lodged with the Chamber of Deputies in Lima, the capital, by a peasant delegation from the area, on 8 February 1992, members of the police opened fire on some 300 unarmed men and women as they peacefully approached a police station in the district of Chavín. As a result, five peasants were killed and at least eight others wounded. Some peasants reportedly attempted to take away the injured, one of whom, Vicente Mejía Cruz, died on the way to hospital. The bodies of Magdalena Ramírez Medina, Arnulfo Acevedo Paucar, Nemecio Ramírez Medina and Manuel Palacios Gomero were left behind; they were later reportedly retrieved by the police and a judge.

Prior to the killings, ronderos, members of the San Marcos district ronda campesina, an independent and legally registered peasant organization established to control local crime and cattle rustling, had detained an alleged cattle thief (abigeo). The cattle thief was subsequently taken by the police to the police station in Chavín.

A delegation of ronderos was named to inquire at the police station as to why the cattle thief had been subsequently freed. The delegates were accompanied by some 300 peasants because on a previous occasion, on 31 July 1989, two ronderos, Pedro Valenzuela Tamayo and Manuel Mejía Contrina, had been to the same police station where they were reportedly detained and "disappeared". They were subsequently found dead (see UA 342/89, AMR 46/67/89, 7 September 1989 and AMR 46/04/90, 17 January 1990).

On 17 February 1992, two local community delegates, Avelino Vega, Presidente de la Ronda Campesina de Challhuayaco, President of the Challhuayaco Civil Patrol, and Mansueto Asencio Solís, were reportedly detained by the Policía Técnica, the investigative police, at a highway police check-point as they attempted to travel to Lima by bus to denounce the killings of 8 February 1992. It is not known whether the two men are still detained, but there are serious fears for their safety.

On 20 February 1992 the killings were denounced by four delegates from local communities

to the Justice and Human Rights Commissions of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies and to the Ministry of the Interior.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Gross and widespread human rights violations have afflicted Peru since 1983, especially in areas designated emergency zones under military control. Emergency zones form the core of counter-insurgency strategy to combat widespread armed opposition, principally from Sendero Luminoso which has been responsible for extensive atrocities since it commenced armed actions in 1980.

Since the armed conflict began, thousands of people have "disappeared" or been extrajudicially executed by the security forces in the emergency zones. Most of those whose bodies were found had been brutally tortured, as were the few who survived "disappearance".

However, in recent years "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions have spread beyond the emergency zones to afflict the entire country. The above alleged killings in the province of Huari on 8 February 1992 took place in an area not under state of emergency.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- asking that the detention of Avelino Vega and Mansueto Asencio Solís be immediately acknowledged and that they be given immediate access to representatives of the Public Ministry;

- asking that they be brought before a judge so that they may be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or be released;

- asking that while in detention they be humanely treated and given access to a lawyer, doctor and relatives;

- urging that a thorough and impartial investigation be immediately ordered into the killing of the five people on 8 February 1992;

- urging that the findings be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- urging that concrete steps be taken with the utmost urgency to guarantee the personal security of all witnesses.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:
Presidente Alberto Fujimori
Presidente de la República del Perú
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza de Armas
Lima 1, PERU
Telexes: 20167 PE PALACIO
Telegrams: Presidente Fujimori, Lima, Perú
Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear President

Lima 27, PERU
Telexes: 21133 PE OCMI/21697
Telegrams: Ministro Interior Davila, Lima, Perú
Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

2) Minister of the Interior:
General EP Juan Briones Dávila
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Plaza 30 de Agosto 150
San Isidro, Urb. Córpac

3) Chief Director of the Investigative
Police:

General PNP-PT Pablo Rivera Portal
Director Superior de la Policía Técnica
Plaza 30 de Agosto 150
San Isidro, Urb. Córpac
Lima 27, PERU

**Telegrams: Chief Director Portal, Policía
Técnica, Lima Perú**

Salutation: Señor Director Superior

COPIES TO:

Subsecretary of Multilateral Policy:
Subsecretaría de Política Multilateral
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Jr. Ucayali 363, Lima 1, PERU

Human Rights Organization:
Señores
Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH)
Pachacutec 980
Jesús María
Lima, PERU

and to diplomatic representatives of Peru in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 April 1992.